

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 22 July 2005. Responsive to the rejections made in the Official Action, Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly clarify the inventive concept of the Applicant.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification requiring a Substitute Specification in proper idiomatic English in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(a) and (b). Accordingly, the Specification and Abstract have been amended and a Substitute Specification and Abstract prepared to replace the Specification and Abstract as filed. The Substitute Specification and Abstract represent clean copies of the Amended Specification and Abstract in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(a) and (b). The Substitute Specification and Abstract include the same changes that are indicated in the marked-up copy of the Specification and Abstract provided in the "AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION." It is believed that the subject matter disclosed by the Substitute Specification was originally disclosed in the Specification and Claims, as filed, and the accompanying Drawing Figures. No new matter has been added by the Amendment.

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 1 due to informalities therein. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the Claim was written

with improper idiomatic English and grammar. In response to this objection, the Claim has been amended to correct such informalities.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Cheng (U.S. Patent 6,799,867) in view of Rahman (U.S. Patent 6,474,841). Prior to a discussion of the prior art relied upon by the Examiner in the Official Action, it is believed that it would be beneficial to briefly review the subject Application in view of the inventive concept of the Applicant. The subject Application is directed to an identified structure of a controlling bulb and a normal bulb of a decorative light string. The controlling bulb is received in a first holder having a pair of grooves, and the first holder is received in a first socket having a first and second pair of projections. The projections extend inwardly from an inner surface of the first socket. Also, each individual projection in the first pair of projections is diametrically opposed to one respective projection from the second pair of projections. There is a normal bulb received in a second holder having two grooves, and the second holder is received in a second socket having two projections. The projections extend inward from an inner surface of the second holder and are diametrically opposed each to the other. Therefore, the controlling bulb can be only placed in the first holder in the first socket and the normal bulb can only be placed in the second holder in the second socket.

In contradistinction, the Cheng reference is directed to a twinkling light string. There is a first bulb assembly and a second bulb assembly, wherein one

bulb holder can and only can be connected with a related socket of the same bulb assembly. Nowhere does the Cheng reference disclose or suggest, "...a first holder having on a periphery, two pairs of grooves, said first holder receiving said controlling bulb therein; a first socket, said first socket having a first and second pair of projections and receiving said first holder, said projections extending inward from an inner surface of said first socket, each projection from said first pair of projections being diametrically opposed to one respective projection from said second pair of projections..." as is now defined in amended independent Claim 1.

The Rahman reference does not overcome the deficiencies of Cheng. The Rahman reference is directed to a twinkle light set. The twinkle bulb light set of Rahman includes, alternately from one end of the light set to an opposite end of the light set, at least one standard bulb socket configured and dimensioned to operatively receive a standard or steady, burning bulb and at least one non-standard bulb socket configured and dimensioned to operatively receive a non-standard twinkle bulb. The standard and non-standard bulb sockets are configured and dimensioned to operatively receive only standard and non-standard bulbs, respectively. Rahman accomplishes the above-mentioned by making the socket sizes differently. Specifically, the interior of the standard bulb socket is sized differently (preferably smaller) in at least one dimension than the interior of the non-standard bulb socket such that the standard bulb socket cannot operatively

receive a non-standard bulb. Nowhere does the reference disclose or suggest a specified socket for a controlling bulb with pairs of diametrically opposed projections.

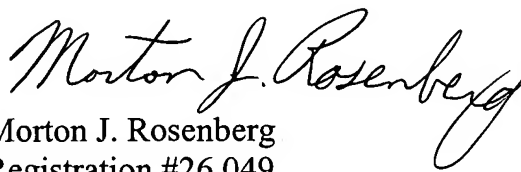
The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to combine the controlling bulb as taught by Rahman with the different groove and projection positions as taught by Cheng for twinkling light sets. In fact, the different size sockets as disclosed in the Rahman reference teach away from the use of different positioned projections and grooves as is now claimed in independent Claim 1. Rahman specifically states that, "... the standard and non-standard bulb sockets 50, 52 are configured and dimensioned to operatively receive the base portions of only standard and non-standard bulbs 51, 53 respectively." This is accomplished by the different sizes of sockets as disclosed in the Rahman reference. It is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation provided in any of the references for the stated combination. The primary reference, Cheng, does not contemplate the use of a controlling bulb. Additionally, Cheng does not contemplate the use of a first and second pair of projections in which the projections of the first pair are diametrically opposed to a respective projection of the second pair. Likewise, there is no disclosure in Rahman to use differently placed projections and grooves for a normal bulb verses controlling bulb; the method used by Rahman is specifically the use of differently sized sockets. Therefore, it could only be by the impermissible use of "hindsight" that the Examiner suggests such a combination.

Arguendo, even if Rahman is properly combinable with Cheng, such still fails to make obvious the invention of the subject Patent Application. Rahman does not disclose the use of a specified socket for a controlling bulb with pairs of diametrically opposed projections. Thus, even if the Cheng reference and the Rahman reference are taken alone or in combination, they do not teach, "...a first holder having on a periphery, two pairs of grooves, said first holder receiving said controlling bulb; a first socket, said first socket having a first and second pair of projections and receiving said first holder, said projections extending inward from an inner surface of said first socket, each projection from said first pair of projections being diametrically opposed to one respective projection from said second pair of projections..." as is necessary to amended independent Claim 1.

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It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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